

2021-2022 AY Athletic Council Report to the Faculty Senate

The Athletic Council met three times virtually: on November 4, 2021, February 3, and April 7, 2022. Each meeting has a similar pattern where Brad Edwards, Asst. Vice-President and Director of Athletics (or his designee) provides an overview and update on the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (ICA) related to personnel updates, academic, and athletic achievements, and projects ICA is working on. The Faculty Athletics Representative, Dr. Dominique Banville then provides an update on activities/work performed in her role. If any business was conducted within the sub-committees and action items are needed, the members of the council are then invited to provide feedback or vote on specific motions.

Some of the notable elements share this past academic year by AD Edwards and ICA staff are:

- Mason Athletics is proud to have 61 Provost Scholars (GPA of 3.75 or higher)
- Mason undergraduate student-athletes finished the Fall semester with an overall GPA average of 3.20, exceeding the general Mason undergraduate population (3.04).
- Women's Volleyball (3.55 GPA) and Men's Cross Country (3.38) boasted the highest team GPAs in the Fall.
- Mason Athletics Graduation Success Rate (GSR) was submitted at 92%.
- ICA brings more than 100,000 visitors to campus for athletic events, camps, clinics
- ICA launched over \$1 million in new financial initiatives to increase cash for capital initiatives and self-generated revenue (e.g., multi-media and transportation). It more than doubled self-generated revenue from FY21 to FY22(E)
- ICA will invest first-time capital initiatives to renovate the Field House locker rooms and increase research of consequence within the Dr. Frank Pettrone Center for Sports Performance
- Total donations and major gifts of \$1.4m and \$570k, respectively raised in YTD FY22 significantly exceeding annual goals and exceeding the prior three fiscal years
- Mason athletics will have a new multi-media rights agreement beginning in June 2022. The new contract will be potentially valued between \$4-6 M over the next 10 years.
- Mason Athletics celebrated Black African Heritage Month at a men's and women's basketball games in conjunction with the University's month-long celebration in February
- Mason Athletics hosted their annual Pride Game at a Softball game in March
- The men's basketball team will welcome its best recruiting class in a decade, led by national top-75 recruit Justyn Fernandez
- Under first-year head coach Vanessa Blair-Lewis, the women's basketball team reached double-figure wins for the first time since the 2018-19 season
- Men's soccer will have a new head coach in the 2022-23 season.
- Freshman swimmer Ali Tyler (Cheshire, Conn.) was named Rookie Performer at the 2022 Atlantic 10 Championships after winning three individual titles
- The men's swimming and diving team finished second at the 2022 Atlantic 10 Championships for the second straight year. The Mason men's team claimed the A-10 title in 2020
- Track & Field student-athlete Jaylen Simmons was named A-10 Most Outstanding Field Performer at the 2022 A-10 Indoor Championships. He has won the honor four times in his career. He swept the shot put and weight throw A-10 titles at the championship meet.
- Mason won seven A-10 titles at the Indoor Championships and 15 medals overall.
- Cross-country runner Annabelle Eastman notched her second straight top-100 finish at the NCAA Championships.

Some of the notable elements share this past academic year done by FAR Banville are:

- Participated in numerous A-10 FARs Conference Calls
- Was appointed to the NCAA Division I “2-4 Transfer Waivers Committee” and in that role, participated in weekly conference calls in the first part of the semester and then as needed
- Was appointed to the A-10 Compliance Committee and participated in monthly conference calls alongside the compliance representative of each institution within the A-10
- Attended the virtual NCAA Regional Rule Seminar; different webinars organized by the A-10 Conference Office, NCAA, and the FAR Association (FARA); the A10 annual meeting, and the NCAA convention
- Examined, monthly, the change of grades submitted for SAs
- Attended multiple practice sessions (e.g. men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball)
- Traveled with the Women’s lacrosse team on their trip to VCU and Davidson on March 25-27
- Traveled to Williamsburg, VA to see the men’s golf team in action on March 28
- Coming ahead is the administration of the Student-Athlete End-of-year survey, individual meetings with exiting SAs, the selection of the A-10 postgraduate scholarship award for Mason, and the submission of the A-10 Commissioner's honor roll to the conference office.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Dominique Banville, Faculty Athletics Representative on April 13, 2022

Appendix A
Responses to Questions from Faculty Senate

1. During the past calendar year has the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President (or their respective offices) announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee? If so, was your Committee consulted by the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President in a timely manner before the announcement or action? If not, do you believe your Committee should have been consulted? Would it have been helpful to have had the input of your Committee from the outset?

Answer: No initiatives or goals or acted upon issues fell under the charge of our committee.

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President or members of their staff? If so, did they respond adequately and in a timely manner?

Answer: Communication was initiated by the FAR with the Chief-of-Staff Ken Walsh and the response was adequate and prompt.

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost, Senior Vice President and/or their staff might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

Answer: The President's Chief-of-Staff has attended part or entire meetings so the interactions are appropriate and I don't see how they could be more effective.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President, Provost, Senior Vice President, or their staff.

Answer: We have a representative from the President's Office (Ken Walsh) and the Provost's office (Bethany Usher), along with Asst. Vice-President and Director of Athletics Brad Edwards and/or deputy ADs attending the meetings.